(e) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred under the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) *inter alia* stipulated to formulate and implement a Master Plan for 15,600 km of access-controlled expressways for high-density corridors and initiate action for determining the alignment and acquiring the land for 6,000 km and simultaneously expedite construction of 1000 km of expressways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase VI to provide unhindered, high-speed, and safe movement of traffic. The Ministry had awarded a Consultancy Services in December, 2008 for Formulation of a Master Plan for the National Expressway Network in the country giving prioritised phasing for completion of these Expressway corridors by the year 2012, 2017 and 2022. The Consultants recently submitted the Final Report based upon the views/observations received from the State Governments *inter alia* recommending total Expressway Network of about 18,637 km for completion in prioritized manner in three phases spanning upto the years 2012, 2017 and 2022. Since the Report and the detailed programme are yet to be accepted by the Government, it is premature to indicate the details of the stretches to be taken up under the programme and the expenditure likely to be incurred under the said programme.

Four laning of Jammu-Srinagar N.H.

739. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame or deadline has been fixed for four laning of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway;

(b) whether Government will accord National Highway status to Mugal Road from Rajouri to Pampose; and

(c) the steps taken for construction of a tunnel across Zojila on Srinagar-Leh National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The four-laning of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is targeted to be completed by 2015.

(b) No such proposal has been received from State Government of J&K.

(c) The design Consultant for preparation of detailed project report (DPR) has been appointed on 29.04.2009 by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) with a completion period of 18 months. The DPR consultant has started the work.

Alternative Highway for Sikkim

740. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an alternative Highway for Sikkim apart from NH-31A has been approved previously;

(b) if so, the details of its route and progress made in this regard; and

(c) by when this alternate National Highway would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for an alternate Highway from Chalsa to Gangtok, *via* Khonya more-Lhaldhaka-Tode-Rachella-Aritar-Rangpo-Ranipul along with a link to Menla has been approved by Government 'in-principle' on 28.11.2008 and an estimate of Rs.183 lakh for preparation of Detail Project Report (DPR) by Border Road Organisation has also been sanctioned by the Ministry in May, 2009. Since the proposal is at DPR stage, it is too early to indicate the date by which the proposed alternate Highway would be completed.

Funds for road projects of NH-5 and 6 in Orissa

741. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has awarded any funds for the construction of the Road Projects of NH-5 and NH-6 in Orissa region;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned for these roads so far in the region of Orissa;

(c) if so, by when all these construction work will be completed and the details thereof; and

(d) the present progress reports of these road construction works in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (d) Construction of road projects of 4-laning from Ichapuram to Balasore in an aggregate length of about 391km have been approved for Rs. 1517.86 crore. Out of this, 4-laning has already been completed in 310km length and balance work is in progress and targeted to be completed by October, 2011. The improvement works amounting to Rs. 12.61 crore have been sanctioned on Balasore-Jharpokharia section of National Highway-5 during last five years. Most of the works are completed.

4-laning of Orissa/Chhattisgarh border-Sambalpur section of National Highway-6 is being taken up under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) phase III on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) toll mode. Total project cost is Rs. 922.50 crore. Request for Qualification (RFQ) of the bidders has been invited and the proposals are to be submitted by 15.12.2009. The improvement works amounting to Rs. 120.22 crore have been sanctioned on Sambalpur-Jamsola section of National Highway-6 during last five years. The ongoing works are in various stages of implementation and targeted to be completed latest by February, 2011.